

image processing technique implemented in an application specific integrated circuit to produce a preview image of acceptable quality prior to initiation of the still image mode.

27. A method for processing images captured by an electronic camera that is operable in a still image mode and in a motion preview mode, said method comprising the steps of:

processing the images in the still image mode by using a relatively more complex digital image processing technique that produces a larger number of output pixel values than input image pixels to produce high quality still images; and

processing the ~~images~~ in the motion preview mode by using a relatively more simple digital image processing technique that produces a smaller number of output pixel values than input image pixels to produce a preview image of acceptable quality.

28. The method as claimed in claim 27 wherein both modes provide color images composed of color pixels.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the step of processing the images in the still mode includes a color filter array interpolation process that produces a larger number of output color pixel values than input color pixels.

30. The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the step of processing the images in the motion preview mode maps an array of input color image pixels into a smaller array of color display pixels.

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31. The method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the step of processing the images in the still mode is implemented in software, and the step of processing the images in the motion preview mode is implemented in an integrated circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

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